

Governor's Cabinet on Chronic & Long Term Care

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Meeting Notes

Members Present:

Corinne Calise Russo, Co-Chair, Director, Department of Elderly Affairs, Co-Chair

Gary D. Alexander, Acting Director, Department of Human Services

Rollin Bartlett, designee, Department of Business Regulation

David Burnett, Governor's Office

Attendees:

John Young

Frank Spinelli

Diane Kayala

Mary Ann Ciano

Paula Parker

Kristin Sousa

Rhonda Schwartz, Esq.

Bob Caffey

Bob Cooper

Holly Garvey

Elaina Goldstein

Kathleen Heren

Kathleen Kelly

Kelly Lee

Alan Travers

Welcome and Introductions

**Corinne Calise Russo, Director, Department of Elderly Affairs,
Co-Chair**

Chairwoman Russo opened the meeting at 1:10 p.m. without a quorum. She stated that the vital role of the caregiver impacts the nation's health crisis. According to researchers, the two critical issues threatening caregivers are health problems and grandparents taking over the parenting role. Chairwoman Russo would like future discussions on how to address caregiver issues.

The Point

Kristin Sousa, Department of Elderly Affairs

Kristin Sousa reported that The Point, Crossroads and OSCIL are collectively soliciting nominations for The Point Advisory Committee. Chairwoman Russo stated that a recent AoA conference call suggested that the Advisory Committee reach out to Native Americans, minorities and the under served population to serve as committee members.

Kristin stated The Point is staffed with six full time employees, who

receive an average of 52.6 incoming calls daily during standard business hours. The staff is assigned to work on special projects during evening and Saturday hours when call volume is low. It was suggested that The Point pursue advertising to publicize its many resources and its extended hours of operation.

Elaina Goldstein asked if The Point had stats on adults with disabilities on Medicaid that are enrolled in Medicare Part D. Frank Spinelli reported that Medicaid does not share that information with the state.

LTC Partnership Grant

Diane Kayala, Department of Human Services

Diane Kayala explained that DHS applied to the Center for Health Care Strategies for the \$50,000 state grant for the Long Term Care Partnership. The grant funds will be used for product information, education and marketing. Currently, most consumers are under the misconception that Medicare takes care of their LTC. The consumer will be provided with factual product information to make the best decision for their future LTC needs. The Senior Level Team will be led by Medicaid Director John Young, with project staff from EOHHS, DHS, DEA and DBR. Grant award notification is expected in June with full implementation due by July, 2008.

Reverse Mortgage Legislation

Rhonda Schwartz, Esq.

Rhonda Schwartz stated that the number of persons applying for a reversed mortgage has increased from 8,000 in 2001 to 80,000 in 2006. The older consumer applies for a loan that draws on the equity in their home allowing for a lump sum payment, a fixed term monthly payment or a line of credit. The process is complicated. The loan has high interest rates and up front closing cost. Ms. Schwartz reported that the proposed legislation will employ many safeguards to educate and protect the consumer.

Chairwoman Russo adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.